

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend page 1, paragraph 2, line 5 as follows:

Be It Known That We, James E. Price, a citizen of United States, resident of the City of Shawnee, County of Johnston, State of Kansas, whose full post office address is 5624 Widmer, Shawnee, Kansas 66216, and Timothy P. Philipp, a citizen of United States, resident of the City of Bridgeton, County of St. Louis, State of Missouri, whose full post office address is 3801 ~~McElvey~~ McKelvey Road, Suite 200, Bridgeton, Missouri 63004, have invented certain new and useful improvements in

Please amend page 2, paragraph 2, line 6 as follows:

Adhesive bandages having skin tone properties are known in the art. However, skin tone bandages have not been widely accepted because their construction was complicated, and the techniques for skin matching were not adequate. Consequently, these various attempts to hide the bandage have met with only mixed success, and the desire for matching skin tone bandages remains unresolved. Included in prior art attempts are U.S. Patent No. 2,905,174 ('174) in which a ~~transparent~~ bandage is imprinted along the backing with a plurality of visible flesh colored markings. U.S. Patent No. 3,687,136 ('136) discloses a bandage with a transparent backing, a gauze dressing, and a piece of colored film there between to obscure the gauze dressing.

While the '136 patent might work for its intended purpose, it does not provide adequate skin matching capabilities, and the method of construction is complicated and unsuitable for mass production. Patent No. 4,161,176 provides a bandage with many layers releasably secured atop one another. Each layer is a different color. With this construction, the wearer peels off layers to select a desired color.

Please amend page 3 paragraph 2, lines 7, 8 and 9 as follows:

In accordance with this invention, generally stated, a cosmetic bandage is provided which includes a transparent backing layer having a top side and a bottom side. A transparent adhesive layer is applied to the bottom side of the backing layer. An absorbent pad having a top side and a bottom side is arranged so that one of the sides has a non-toxic pigment composition applied to it so as to be derma matching and having a melanin likeness and appearance. The composition preferably is applied by flood printing or a silk screening process, in which a ~~dot~~ speckle matrix arrangement is employed to provide improved skin matching capabilities. In the preferred embodiment, the absorbent pad it self provides the ~~dot~~ speckle matrix arrangement. In other embodiments, the ~~dot~~ speckle matrix is provided by the printing method employed for transferring the pigment to the pad. The pigmented side of the pad is attached to the backing layer and is intended to be visible therethrough. The adhesive bandages of the present invention aid in the healing of external wounds or injuries and

provide a cosmetic concealment of the wound or injury by color matching and pattern matching the appearance of the human skin or derma.

Please amend page 5, paragraph 2, lines 1 and 2 as follows:

The backing layer 2 includes a first side 10 and a second side ~~12~~ 11. One of the sides 10 and ~~12~~ 11 has a suitable adhesive 5 applied to it. In the preferred embodiment, the adhesive is pressure sensitive, but any suitable adhesive is compatible with the broader aspects of the present invention. The backing layer 2 preferably is transparent tape.

Please amend page 5, paragraph 4, line 3 as follows:

The pad 3 preferably has a pattern construction 16 associated with it, best shown in Figures 1 and 9. The pattern structure is important in the construction of the bandage of this invention, in that it provides an effective ~~dot~~ speckle matrix pattern, which enables one to construct the bandage of the present invention economically and quickly. The pad 3 also includes a side 20 and a side 21. The side 21 is the side on which a pigment is applied as latter described in greater detail, while the side 20 is the wound facing side of the bandage 1. Conventional removable strips 4 are provided to protect the bandage 1 prior to use.

Please amend page 6, paragraph 2, lines 1, 2 and 4 as follows:

Alternatively, when the pad 3 is not formed with the ~~dot~~ speckle matrix structure 20 16 initially, a plurality of these steps may be employed to provide the appearance of the pigmented layer. Figures 2-5 illustrate methods of obtaining the desired shading when the design does not include the matrix pattern 20- 16.